

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey

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MS. MARIA MERCADO
Chairperson

MS. GRIZEL UBARRY
Executive Director

October 27, 1980

Mr. Robert Parson
Lillia Babbit Hyde Foundation
507 West Minister Ave.
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Dear Mr. Parson:

This is a special request for emergency funds to enable Aspira to quickly recover from an unexpected setback. Aspira suffered a burglary last week (October 16th) in which all of our typewriters and other valuable office equipment were stolen.

With the aid of friendly help from Focus and the Puerto Rican Legal Committee, we have borrowed the equipment needed to keep our programs going, but permanent replacement will have to be arranged as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, Aspira had been unable to obtain theft insurance. In fact, five different insurers had already turned us down. We were in the process of applying for Federal Crime insurance. In the meantime, we thought that we were well protected. Since moving into our new quarters two years ago, we had provided for security at the only two regular entrances to the building. Steel gates and special locks had been installed. What we did not anticipate was the possibility of our building being entered from the roof by way of the adjoining building, which was what happened late Thursday night. The burglars had gained entrance to the Public Defenders Offices next door, and then climbed out the windows onto our roof and broke through our skylight. Unhappily, they were very thorough.

Because of the client population we serve, Aspira has no choice but to be located in downtown Newark. Being convenient to bus and train lines and accessible to the young people we serve is absolutely essential. We do anticipate obtaining insurance once additional security measures are taken. In the meantime, I am forced to look to those who have been supporters of ours in the past for a special emergency grant to enable us to continue our services to young people.

A list of equipment which was been stolen is attached. The total replacement cost will be approximately \$12,000. I hope that the Lillia Babbit Hyde Foundation will be able to consider a grant towards this amount.

Your interest and support in the past has meant much to us and this is not the kind of report I like to send you. But dealing with reality--including the hazards of the inner city--is what makes our work challenging and useful. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have and provide you with any additional information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lillia B. Hyde
Ms. Grisel Ubarry
Executive Director

GU/rh